

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 03-03

Date: 31 October 2003

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101, 2000 ed.; NFPA 1, 2003 ed.

Section(s): 12.7.2, 13.7.2, 10.1.5

Comments:

Candles pose a hazard in occupancies.

Question: Is candle burning allowed in occupancies other than assembly?

Response: No.

Open flame devices are allowed in assembly occupancies under the following circumstances. 1) when used for a ceremonial or religious purpose other than handheld candles by occupants in seating areas; 2) on stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance; 3) on tables where the candle is securely supported on a substantial noncombustible base and the candle flame is protected; 4) food preparation operations, or as noted in section 12/13.7.2.

The use of candles in all other occupancies is deemed hazardous to life and property. The authority having jurisdiction shall maintain safe conditions and shall have candles removed.

Candle burning will NOT be allowed in health care, residential board and care, assisted living, day care center, home day care, hotel, motel and dormitories, rooming and lodging, education, business, mercantile, industrial, detention or storage occupancies unless specifically approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

This interpretation does not apply to or include individual living units within apartments or 1-and 2-family dwellings or to supervised medical procedures.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal